

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following before "Background of the Invention" at page 1:

This is a divisional of United States Patent Application No. 10/346,266, filed January 15, 2003, which is a continuation of United States Patent Application No. 09/997,659, filed November 29, 2001, which is a continuation of United States Patent Application No. 08/119,367, filed September 9, 1993, now United States Patent No. 6,418,556.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, line 5, to page 5, line 2 as follows:

The prior electronic program guides also fail to provide the user with a simple and efficient method of controlling access to individual channels and individual programs. The amount of adult situations involving sex and violence has steadily increased during the last 40 years. The issue of how this affects children or other viewers has gained national attention. Providing a parent with the ability to lock-out a channel is a well known and widespread feature of certain television receivers and cable converter boxes. Despite this availability, the feature is seldom used

by parents. The main impediments to its effective use are the cumbersome ways in which it is generally implemented, as well as the requirement that entire channels be blocked in order to block access to any ~~objectional~~ objectionable programming. A channel-oriented parental lock is unfair to other programmers on the blocked channel -- who, for example, offer adult-oriented programming in the evening and youth-oriented programming the following morning -- and inconvenient for viewers who want access to such programs. Thus there is a particular need for a system which provides password control to individual programs and channels using a flexible and uncomplicated on-screen user interface.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 11-14 as follows:

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide password control for access to individual programs, as well as channels, using a protected, interactive, flexible and uncomplicated on-screen interface.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 15-17 as follows:

~~Another object of the present invention is~~ The disclosed system is also adapted to provide the user with current programming information for all programs as the user surfs through the available channels.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, line 21, to page 10, line 24 as follows:

These and other objects of the invention are achieved by an electronic program schedule system which includes a receiver for receiving broadcast, satellite or cablecast television programs for a plurality of television channels and a tuner for tuning a television receiver to a selected one of the plurality of channels. Such systems and related processes are also described in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/346,266, filed January 15, 2003, in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/997,659, filed November 29, 2001, and in United States Patent No. 6,418,556, which are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entireties. A data processor receives and stores in a memory television program schedule information for a plurality of television programs to appear on the plurality of television channels. A user

control apparatus, such as a remote controller, is utilized by a viewer to choose user control commands and transmit signals in response to the data processor which receives the signals in response to user control commands. A television receiver is used to display the television programs and television program schedule information. A video display generator receives video control commands from the data processor and program schedule information from the memory and displays a portion of the program schedule information in overlaying relationship with a television program appearing on a television channel in at least one mode of operation of the television programming guide. The data processor controls the video display generator with video control commands, issued in response to the user control commands, to display program schedule information for any chosen one of the plurality of television programs in an overlaying relationship with at least one television program then appearing on any chosen one of the plurality of channels on the television receiver.

Please amend the paragraph at page 27, lines 10-17 as follows:

In normal operation, the microcontroller 16 defaults to displaying all channels offered by the cable company prioritized by numeric order, which is determined by the broadcast channel position in the radio spectrum or the marketing judgments of local cable ~~operators~~ operators. Using a "Channel Preference" submenu, discussed below, the user can revise the content and/or sequential order of the channels presented to the television receiver 27.

Please amend the paragraph at page 30, line 12, to page 31, line 11 as follows:

If the user depresses either the up or down direction arrow on the remote controller 40 while in the BROWSE mode, program schedule information for either the prior or next channel is displayed in the graphic overlay portion 111 of the television receiver screen 27, while the tuner remains tuned to the channel program that appeared on the television receiver at the time the user entered the BROWSE mode, as shown in Fig. 12, and continues to so appear. Each successive depression of the up or down direction arrow key produces corresponding program schedule information for

the selected channel. The graphic overlay may also include a small video window for showing the actual video signal of a currently aired program or a clip of a future program corresponding to the ~~schedule~~ schedule information then appearing in the BROWSE overlay. In this way, the user can simultaneously scan program schedule information for all channels while continuously viewing at least one selected program on the television receiver. With the advent of sophisticated television receivers, it may also be possible to simultaneously display multiple broadcast programs on a single screen for viewing, or to split the screen to show, for example, broadcast programs in combination with advertisements. The BROWSE feature could be used in any of these situations.

Please amend the paragraph at page 33, line 12, to page 34, line 19 as follows:

If while viewing program schedule information for a future time in BROWSE mode the user depresses the ENTER key on the remote controller, the microcontroller 16 will instruct VDG 23 to display a reminder overlay message 130 which, as shown in Fig. 13, is displayed as a second overlay 131 appearing above the BROWSE overlay 132. The REMINDER

message 130 queries the user as to whether the system should remind the user, at a predetermined time before the start of the selected program, that he or she would like to view the selected program, as shown in Fig. 13. If the user responds affirmatively, the microcontroller 16 stores reminder data consisting of at least the channel, time and day of the selected program in a reminder buffer, which contains similar schedule information for all programs for which the user has set a reminder. At a predetermined time before the selected program start time, for example, five minutes, the microcontroller 16 will ~~retreive~~ retrieve schedule information, including title and service, based on the reminder data, and will instruct the VDG 23 to display a REMINDER overlay message 140 on the television receiver 27, as shown in Fig. 14, to remind the user that he or she previously set a reminder to watch the selected program. The REMINDER message 140 contains the channel, service and start time. It also displays the number of minutes before the time of airing of the particular show and updates the display every minute until the time of airing. The REMINDER message 140 also displays a "TUNE" inquiry, which asks the user if she would like to tune to the selected program. As with the overlay display time period in the FLIP mode, the user can

modify the time period before a selected program that the REMINDER message appears by entering the Viewer Preference mode and revising the time entry.

Please amend the paragraph at page 61, line 20, to page 62, line 4 as follows:

The form and content of a particular computer program to implement the invention disclosed herein will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art of video system programming and graphic display. A flow chart showing the operation logic of the system is shown in Figs. 36A-D. It will also be appreciated by those skilled in the art that there can be departure from the specific embodiment of the invention described herein without departing from the true scope of the claims appended hereto.